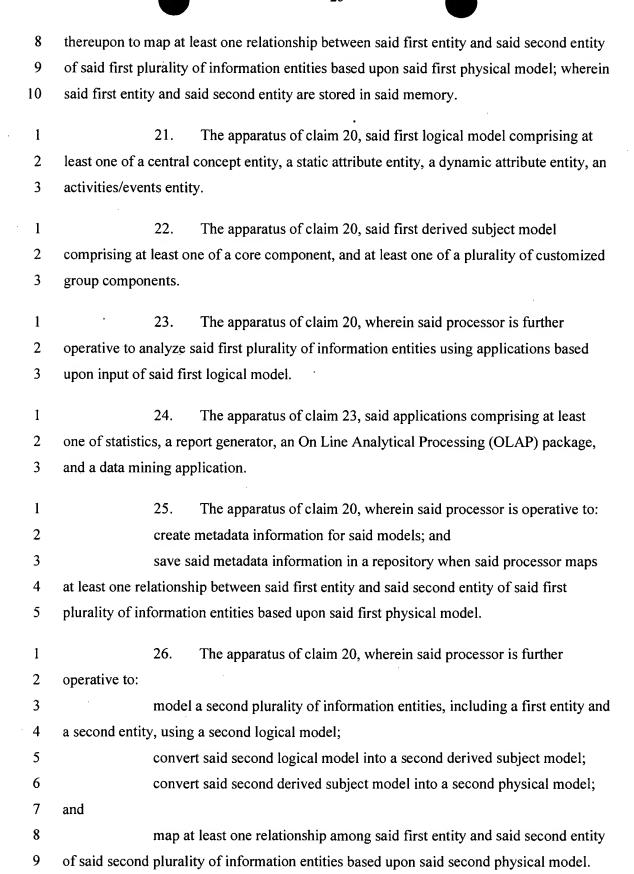What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for managing information, comprising:

2   modeling a first plurality of information entities, including a first entity

3 and a second entity, using a first logical model;

4   converting said logical model into a first derived subject model;

5   converting said first derived subject model into a first physical model; and

6   mapping at least one relationship between said first entity and said second

7 entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, said first logical model comprising at least

2 one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an

3 activities/events entity.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, said first derived subject model comprising

2 at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized group

3 components.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   analyzing said first plurality of information entities using applications

3 based upon input of said first logical model.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, said applications comprising at least one of

2 statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package, and a

3 data mining application.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, mapping at least one relationship between

2 said first entity and said second entity of said first plurality of information entities based

3 upon said first physical model comprises:

4   creating metadata information for said models; and

5   saving said metadata information in a repository.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   modeling a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity

3 and a second entity, using a second logical model;

4   converting said second logical model into a second derived subject model;

5   converting said second derived subject model into a second physical

6 model; and

7   mapping at least one relationship among said first entity and said second

8 entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical

9 model.

1   8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   analyzing said first plurality of information entities and said second

3 plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical

4 model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships

5 between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of

6 information entities.

1   9. A system for managing data, comprising:

2   a computer;

3   an information store, operable to contain said data;

4   a database interface software process that maintains said data in said

5 information store;

6   a metadata repository;

7   a query/command generator software process that provides access to said

8 data;

9   a repository interface software process that provides access to said

10 metadata;

11   a scheduler software process; and

12   a user interface software process that controls input to and output from

13 said metadata repository, said database interface software process, said query/command

14 generator software process, and said scheduler.

1   10. A computer program product for managing information, said

2 computer program product comprising:

3   code that models a first plurality of information entities, including a first

4 entity and a second entity, using a first logical model;

5   code that converts said logical model into a first derived subject model;

6   code that converts said first derived subject model into a first physical

7 model;

8   code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said

9   second entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical

10   model; and

11   a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1   11.   The computer program product of claim 10, said first logical model

2   comprising at least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic

3   attribute entity, an activities/events entity.

1   12.   The computer program product of claim 10, said first derived

2   subject model comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality

3   of customized group components.

1   13.   The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising:

2   code that analyzes said first plurality of information entities using

3   applications based upon input of said first logical model.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 13, said applications

2   comprising at least one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing

3   (OLAP) package, and a data mining application.

1   15.   The computer program product of claim 10, wherein said code that

2   maps at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first

3   plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model comprises:

4   code that creates metadata information for said models; and

5   code that saves said metadata information in a repository.

1   16.   The computer program product of claim 10, further comprising:

2   code that models a second plurality of information entities, including a

3   first entity and a second entity, using a second logical model;

4   code that converts said second logical model into a second derived subject

5   model;

6   code that converts said second derived subject model into a second

7   physical model; and

8   code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said

9   second entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second

10 physical model.

1   17.   The computer program of claim 16, further comprising:

2   code that analyzes said first plurality of information entities and said

3   second plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first

4   logical model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships

5   between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of

6   information entities.

1   18.   A computer memory, having stored thereon data, said data

2   comprising:

3   a first central concept entity;

4   a first static attribute entity;

5   a first dynamic attribute entity; and

6   a first activities/events entity, wherein said first central concept entity, said

7   first static attribute entity, said first dynamic attribute entity, and said first

8   activities/events entity are related by a first subject model.

1   19.   The computer memory of claim 18, said data further comprising:

2   a second central concept entity;

3   a second static attribute entity;

4   a second dynamic attribute entity; and

5   a second activities/events entity, wherein said second central concept

6   entity, said second static attribute entity, said second dynamic attribute entity, and said

7   second activities/events entity are related by a second subject model.

1   20.   An apparatus for managing information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory;

4   wherein said processor is operative to model a first plurality of information

5   entities, including a first entity and a second entity, using a first logical model; said

6   processor is further operative to convert said logical model into a first derived subject

7   model; and to convert said first derived subject model into a first physical model; and

8   thereupon to map at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity

9   of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model; wherein

10   said first entity and said second entity are stored in said memory.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 20, said first logical model comprising at

2   least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an

3   activities/events entity.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 20, said first derived subject model

2   comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized

3   group components.

1   23.   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to analyze said first plurality of information entities using applications based

3   upon input of said first logical model.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 23, said applications comprising at least

2   one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package,

3   and a data mining application.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is operative to:

2   create metadata information for said models; and

3   save said metadata information in a repository when said processor maps

4   at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first

5   plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to:

3   model a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity and

4   a second entity, using a second logical model;

5   convert said second logical model into a second derived subject model;

6   convert said second derived subject model into a second physical model;

7   and

8   map at least one relationship among said first entity and said second entity

9   of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical model.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to:

3   analyze said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality

4   of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical model

5   and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships between said

6   first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of information entities.

1   28.   A client apparatus, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory; and

4   a display; wherein said processor causes said display to:

5   display a first logical model, said first logical model modeling a first

6   plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;

7   display a first derived subject model, said first derived subject model

8   obtained from said logical model;

9   display a first physical model, said first physical model obtained from said

10   first derived subject model; wherein at least one relationship between said first entity and

11   said second entity of said first plurality of information entities exists based upon said first

12   physical model.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 28, said first logical model comprising at

2   least one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an

3   activities/events entity.

1   30.   The apparatus of claim 28, said first derived subject model

2   comprising at least one of a core component, and at least one of a plurality of customized

3   group components.

1   31.   The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to display a result obtained from analyzing said first plurality of information

3   entities using applications based upon input of said first logical model.

1   32.   The apparatus of claim 31, said applications comprising at least

2   one of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package,

3   and a data mining application.

1   33.   The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is operative to:

2   display a result obtained from creating metadata information for said

3   models; and saving said metadata information in a repository when said processor maps

4   at least one relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first

5   plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1   34.   The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to:

3   display a second logical model, said second logical model modeling a

4   second plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;

5   display a second derived subject model obtained from said second logical

6   model;

7   display a second physical model obtained from said second derived subject

8   model;

9   wherein at least one relationship among said first entity and said second

10   entity of said second plurality of information entities exists based upon said second

11   physical model.

1   35.   The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said processor is further

2   operative to:

3   display a result obtained from analyzing said first plurality of information

4   entities and said second plurality of information entities using applications based upon

5   input from said first logical model and said second logical model, said applications

6   deriving new relationships between said first plurality of information entities and said

7   second plurality of information entities.

1   36.   A method for managing information, comprising:

2   modeling a first plurality of information entities, including a first entity

3   and a second entity, using a first logical model;

4   converting said logical model into a first physical model; and

5   mapping at least one relationship between said first entity and said second

6   entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model.

1   37. The method of claim 36, said first logical model comprising at least

2 one of a central concept entity, a static attribute entity, a dynamic attribute entity, an

3 activities/events entity.

1   38. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   analyzing said first plurality of information entities using applications

3 based upon input of said first logical model.

1   39. The method of claim 38, said applications comprising at least one

2 of statistics, a report generator, an On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) package, and a

3 data mining application.

1   40. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein mapping at least one

2 relationship between said first entity and said second entity of said first plurality of

3 information entities based upon said first physical model comprises:

4   creating metadata information for said models; and

5   saving said metadata information in a repository when said processor.

1   41. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

2   modeling a second plurality of information entities, including a first entity

3 and a second entity, using a second logical model;

4   converting said second logical model into a second physical model; and

5   mapping at least one relationship among said first entity and said second

6 entity of said second plurality of information entities based upon said second physical

7 model.

1   42. The method of claim 41, further comprising:

2   analyzing said first plurality of information entities and said second

3 plurality of information entities using applications based upon input from said first logical

4 model and said second logical model, said applications deriving new relationships

5 between said first plurality of information entities and said second plurality of

6 information entities.

1   43. A computer program product for managing information, said

2 computer program product comprising:

3   code that models a first plurality of information entities, including a first

4   entity and a second entity, using a first logical model;

5   code that converts said logical model into a first physical model;

6   code that maps at least one relationship among said first entity and said

7   second entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical

8   model; and

9   a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

1   44.   An apparatus for managing information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory;

4   wherein said processor is operative to model a first plurality of information

5   entities, including a first entity and a second entity, using a first logical model; said

6   processor is further operative to convert said logical model into a first physical model;

7   and thereupon to map at least one relationship between said first entity and said second

8   entity of said first plurality of information entities based upon said first physical model;

9   wherein said first entity and said second entity are stored in said memory.

1   45.   A client apparatus, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory; and

4   a display; wherein said processor causes said display to:

5   display a first logical model, said first logical model modeling a first

6   plurality of information entities, including a first entity and a second entity;

7   display a first physical model, said first physical model obtained from said

8   first logical model; wherein at least one relationship between said first entity and said

9   second entity of said first plurality of information entities exists based upon said first

10   physical model.

1   46.   A method for analyzing information, comprising:

2   retrieving metadata information from a repository;

3   creating at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said metadata

4   information;

5   sending said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database;

6   providing information received from said database responsive to said at

7   least one of a plurality of commands to at least one of a plurality of applications; and

8   creating at least one of a plurality of reports from a result of said at least

9   one of a plurality of applications.

1   47.   The method of claim 46, wherein said metadata information

2   comprises at least one of a model, a mapping, a derived attributes definition, and a

3   profiling definition.

1   48.   A computer program product for analyzing information,

2   comprising:

3   code that retrieves metadata information from a repository;

4   code that creates at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said

5   metadata information;

6   code sends said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database;

7   code that provides information received from said database responsive to

8   said at least one of a plurality of commands to at least one of a plurality of applications;

9   code that creates at least one of a plurality of reports from a result of said

10 at least one of a plurality of applications; and

11   a computer readable storage medium for storing the codes.

1   49.   An apparatus for analyzing information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory;

4   wherein said processor is operative to retrieve metadata information from a

5   repository; create at least one of a plurality of commands based upon said metadata

6   information; send said at least one of a plurality of commands to a database; provide

7   information received from said database responsive to said at least one of a plurality of

8   commands to at least one of a plurality of applications; and create at least one of a

9   plurality of reports from a result of said at least one of a plurality of applications.

1   50.   A client apparatus, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   a memory; and

4   a display; wherein said processor causes said display to display at least one

5   of a plurality of reports from a result of at least one of a plurality of applications acting

6   upon information received from a database responsive to at least one of a plurality of

7   commands created based upon a metadata information retrieved from a repository.